

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: CHAIRMAN JOHN ESP, on January 9, 2009 at 3:00
P.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. John Esp, Chairman (R)
Sen. Jeff Essmann, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)
Sen. Ron Erickson (D)
Sen. Kim Gillan (D)
Sen. Verdell Jackson (R)
Sen. Jesse Laslovich (D)
Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Steven Gallus (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Leanne Heisel, Legislative Branch
Debra Polhemus, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 74, 1/6/2009; SB 98, 1/6/2009

Executive Action:

HEARING ON SB 98

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:18 **SEN. JIM KEANE (D)**, SD 38, opened the hearing on **SB 98**,
Authorize local taxing jurisdiction for wildland fuel
reduction projects.

EXHIBIT(los05a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:07:26 Sheryl Wood, Associate Director, Montana Association of
Counties

00:08:20 Richard Van Aucken, Teton County Fire Chief

00:09:23 Patrick McKelvey, Board Member, Fire Safe Montana

Opponents' Testimony:

00:10:15 None

Informational Testimony:

00:10:21 Bob Harrington, Forestry Division Administrator,
Department of Natural Resources

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:17:04 Sen. Erickson

00:17:54 Sen. Keane

00:19:14 Leanne Heisel, Legislative Services Division

00:20:03 Sen. Erickson

00:20:16 Bob Harrington

00:22:59 Sen. Erickson

00:23:36 Bob Harrington

00:24:08 Sen. Tutvedt

00:24:37 Sen. Keane

00:25:57 Chairman Esp

00:27:13 Leanne Heisel

00:28:14 Sheryl Wood

Closing by Sponsor:

00:29:46 Sen. Jim Keane

00:30:45 Recess

00:31:51 Reconvene

HEARING ON SB 74

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:32:07 **SEN. RICK LAIBLE (R)**, SD 44, opened the hearing on
SB 74, Revise fire chief duties.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:34:49 Sheryl Wood, MACo

Opponents' Testimony:

00:36:11 Brett Waters, Fire Chief, Central Valley Fire District

00:39:32 Dave Kneebone, Fire Chiefs Association

00:43:15 Leonard Lundby, President, Montana Fire Alliance and
Chief, Manchester Fire Department

00:48:18 Ken Mergenthaler, President, Montana Fire Chiefs
Association

00:49:38 Brian Crandell, Assistant Fire Chief, Central Valley
Fire District and Montana Fire Alliance

Informational Testimony:

00:51:14 None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:51:20 Sen. Jackson

00:52:35 Sen. Laible

Closing by Sponsor:

00:52:53 Sen. Rick Laible

Additional Exhibit:

00:54:14 Leanne Heisel (relating to hearing on 1/7/09, SB 57
and SB 58)

EXHIBIT(los05a02)

00:54:54 Sen. Esp

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:00 P.M.

DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

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Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([los05aad.pdf](#))